

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A prosthetic acetabular component for a prosthetic total hip joint, said component comprising two discrete constructs, one of said constructs being a metal base construct adapted to engage a bone and the other of said constructs being a polyethylene bearing construct connectable to the metal base construct in snap-fit fashion and adapted to articulate with a prosthetic femoral stem component on an opposing side of the joint, wherein said metal base construct ~~is composed of~~ comprises two adjacent layers of different metals, a first metal adapted to engage the bone surface and a second metal adapted to engage the polyethylene bearing construct, the first metal having a different primary constituent than the second metal, the first metal being adapted to provide a superior bone-engaging face, and the second metal being adapted to provide a superior polyethylene-engaging face;

wherein said metal base construct is provided with an internal groove, and said polyethylene bearing construct is provided with a flange adapted to snap into the groove to

provide the snap-fit connectability of said two discrete constructs; and

wherein the flange is of substantially annular configuration in plan view and extends from said bearing construct peripheral wall outwardly and distally, and said metal base construct is provided with an inwardly-projecting rail which in part defines the internal groove, and the flange is undercut by a substantially annular groove, such that the flange is adapted to flex distally into the annular groove to override the rail and snap into the metal construct internal groove.

Claim 2 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said first metal comprises titanium.

Claim 3 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said first metal comprises a titanium alloy.

Claim 4 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said first metal comprises tantalum.

Claim 5 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said first metal comprises a tantalum alloy.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said first metal comprises a material which is substantially biocompatible and which exhibits substantial bone ingrowth properties.

Claim 7 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said second metal comprises CoCrMo.

Claim 8 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said second metal comprises a cobalt based alloy.

Claim 9 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said second metal comprises a stainless steel.

Claim 10 (original): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said second metal comprises a zirconium based alloy.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A prosthetic acetabular component according to claim 1 wherein said second metal comprises a material which ~~has~~ exhibits substantially high hardness and which is scratch resistant.